

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. to 27. (canceled).

28. (original): A method for producing an active carbon, comprising a step of adding an alkaline earth metal compound to a raw material of active carbon and heat-treating it, and a step of mixing the carbonized product produced by the heat treatment with an alkali metal compound and heating and thereby activating it.

29. (original): A method for producing an active carbon, comprising a step of adding an alkaline earth metal compound to a raw material of active carbon and heat-treating it in the vapor of an alkali metal compound, and a step of mixing the carbonized product produced by the heat treatment with an alkali metal compound and heating and thereby activating it.

30. (original): The method for producing an active carbon as claimed in claim 28 or 29, wherein the temperature of performing the heat treatment step is kept in a range from 400 to 600°C and in a range from 600 to 900°C.

31. (original): The method for producing an active carbon as claimed in claim 28, wherein the alkali metal compound is an alkali metal hydroxide.

32. (original): The method for producing an active carbon as claimed in claim 28 or 29, wherein the alkali metal compound is a compound containing at least one member selected from the group consisting of potassium, sodium and cesium.

33. (original): The method for producing an active carbon as claimed in claim 28 or 29, wherein the carbonized product is an easily graphitizable carbon.

34. (new): The method for producing an active carbon as claimed in claim 28, wherein the raw material of active carbon is a thermoplastic resin, a pitch-base material, a condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon compound or a condensed heterocyclic compound.

35. (new): The method for producing an active carbon claim 29, wherein the raw material of active thermoplastic resin, a pitch-base material, a condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon compound or a condensed heterocyclic compound.

36. (new): The method for producing an active carbon as claimed in claim 28, further comprising a step of coating a porous carbon layer comprising non-graphitizable carbon on the surface of the active carbon

37. (new): The method for producing an active carbon as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a step of coating a porous carbon layer comprising non-graphitizable carbon on the active carbon layer.

38. (new): The method for producing an active carbon as claimed in claim 30, further comprising a step of coating a porous carbon layer comprising non-graphitizable carbon on the surface of the active carbon.

39. (new): The method for producing an active carbon as claimed in claim 38, wherein the coating step is a step of coating a coating material which produces the porous carbon layer between a first heat-treatment stage of 400 to 600°C and a second heat-treatment stage of 600 to 900 °C.

40. (new): The method for producing an active carbon layer as claimed in claim 39, wherein the coating material contains a non-graphitizable carbon material which produces a hard carbon by heat treatment.

41. (new): The method for producing an active carbon layer as claimed in claim 40, wherein the non-graphitizable carbon material is at least one member selected from the group consisting of phenol resin, polyvinyl alcohol resin, furan resin, cellulose resin, polystyrene resin, polyimide resin, and epoxy resin.